

**Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
755 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073**

Policy Board Meeting Minutes

November 05, 2009

PRESENT: Lance Terpenney - Town of Christiansburg
 Adele Schirmer - Town of Blacksburg
 Richard Ballengee - Town of Christiansburg
 Steve Mouras - Virginia Tech
 Craig Meadows - Montgomery County
 Richard Caywood - VDOT (Salem)
 Rebecca Martin - Blacksburg Transit
 Jeff Sizemore - DRPT
 Kevin Byrd - NRVPCD
 Dan Brugh - BCM MPO
 Randal Gwinn - Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

 Ron Rordam -Town of Blacksburg
 Doug Marrs - Montgomery County
 Tammye Davis - Federal Highway Administration
 Michael St. Jean - VT Montgomery Regional Airport Authority

NON-MPO PRESENT:

 David Clarke - VDOT (Christiansburg)

I. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Lance declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lance then asked for a motion to approve the revised meeting agenda distributed by the MPO Staff.

On a motion by Richard Caywood, seconded by Richard Ballengee, and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2009

Lance asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 1, 2009 meeting.

On a motion by Richard Ballengee, seconded by Craig Meadows, and carried unanimously, the minutes from the October 1, 2009 meeting were approved.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were no petitioners from the public seeking to address the Policy Board therefore the public address session was closed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business needing discussion therefore the session was closed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorization for MPO planning study of the Route 460/Southgate Drive Interchange

After distributing a revised scope of work and budget document to the group, Dan summarized the history to date of this project:

Virginia Tech has been working with VDOT and local government to initiate a project for construction of an interchange on the Route 460 Bypass at Southgate Drive (Route 314). This project is included in the MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and was discussed initially at our November 2008 meeting. Before project development can begin, an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) needs to be submitted and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In discussions with VDOT, an advance study could secure the information and analysis needed to prepare an IMR. This study is within the scope of work that can be accomplished by the MPO and VDOT concurrence in this has been secured. A budget of \$94,000 and scope of work has been developed by our On Call consultant, Parsons Transportation. The budget and scope of work has been reviewed by and is satisfactory with VDOT. Due to current funding constraints in the MPO, Virginia Tech is considering financing the study and in order not to delay the study if Virginia Tech approves the project for funding, approval of the project by the MPO is needed. The TAC has not reviewed this proposal.

Once Dan finished his summary Steve added that Virginia Tech was very interested in the success of this project and wanted to insure that it is a collaborative effort involving VDOT and the localities. He added that Virginia Tech would be viewing this as a long-term project and hopes that construction funding will be forthcoming for somewhere other than Virginia Tech.

Dan then stated that the immediate need was for MPO Policy Board approval of the Resolution in attachment # 2 of the meeting handout.

Adele asked if Virginia Tech was actually funding the study or instead fronting it. Dan answered that Virginia Tech would be providing the funding.

On a motion by Adele Schirmer, seconded by Richard Caywood, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has requested the BCM MPO to conduct a study and analysis of an Interchange on the Route 460 Bypass at Southgate Drive (Route 314); and

WHEREAS, VDOT has concurred that this request can be done by the BCM MPO, and

WHEREAS, this project is included in the current 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, and
WHEREAS, the BCM MPO has an “On Call” consultant to conduct this type of study, and
WHEREAS, the Executive Director has obtained a proposal from Parsons Transportation for this request; and
WHEREAS, Virginia Tech will provide the necessary funding to conduct the study and analysis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO approves this requested study; and

FURTHER, that it authorizes the Executive Director to secure final approval from VDOT and FHWA for the scope of work, and

FURTHER, that Montgomery County is authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the BCM MPO with Parsons Transportation after approval of funding by Virginia Tech and an agreement executed with Virginia Tech to accomplish this work.

Attest: _____
Lance Terpenney, Chairman

B. Support of the Town of Blacksburg’s Grant Application for the Safe Routes to School Program

Adele explained that the Town of Blacksburg plans to apply for a grant under the Safe Routes to School Program for the Harding Avenue Elementary School. The purpose of the grant is to support education, encouragement, development of engineering strategies to improve safety, increase community awareness, change community attitudes regarding the safety of walking/bicycling to school, and increase the number of students walking to school. Adele then stated that the immediate need was for MPO Policy Board approval of the Resolution in attachment # 3 of the meeting handout.

Lance asked if any local matches would be necessary to which Adele replied that the grant would be for 100% funding of the project.

Richard Caywood stated that going forward he expected to see more projects of this type requested and perhaps someday there would be plans forthcoming specifically for this type of projects.

Richard Ballengee asked if the entire amount of the grant award would be spent to which Adele replied that this was the intention.

On a motion by Richard Caywood, seconded by Richard Ballengee, and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, VDOT Administers grant funding for the Safe Routes to School Program, and

WHEREAS, this program is intended to provide options that allow children to walk and bicycle to school safely, and

WHEREAS, the town of Blacksburg desires to pursue funding to support education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and development of engineering strategies to improve safety, increase community awareness, change community attitudes regarding the safety of walking/bicycling to school, and to increase the number of students walking to school at Harding Avenue Elementary School.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area MPO supports the Town of Blacksburg's request and encourages VDOT to fund this program in the Town of Blacksburg

Attest: _____
Dan Brugh, Executive Director

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Update on Transit Service expansion in Christiansburg

Becky summarized the materials pertinent to the Christiansburg Transit Service as used by Blacksburg Transit in the presentation to the Christiansburg Town Council. She then went on to lead a brief discussion concerning the types of routes offered, the use of initial ridership data to determine the final routes, ADA compliance, fares, and the various activities planned for November 23rd.

B. Update on the Warm Hearth Transit Study

Becky briefly updated the group on the progress of discussions with Warm Hearth pertinent to providing Transit service to that area. Dan and Becky are currently assisting Warm Hearth personnel with designing a survey of the residents in an effort to determine what type of service is desired and would be most beneficial.

Steve asked about the history of the request for service and Dan replied that Montgomery County made the request. Steve then asked if Montgomery County was comfortable with funding the service to which Craig replied that Montgomery County was interested in finding out more information at this time.

C. Update on the Franklin Street/ Cambria Street Study

Dan stated that we have a revised concept that the Town of Christiansburg will be reviewing in the near future and that this study is hopefully nearing completion to the point where we can have an information meeting and get a final report submitted to the MPO.

D. Update on the 2035 Long Range Plan development

Dan reported that this project is still moving at a very slow pace. One constraint on this project is VDOT funding which does not look good now and probably will be atrocious when carried out to the year 2035. Michael Grey has promised financial projections from VDOT in December. We are scheduled to have the plan approved by mid-year next year so Parsons is going to have to pick up the pace.

E. Update on the SmartWay bus

Dan gave an update on the numbers for the SmartWay Bus, pointing out that ridership was slightly down and that the fall in operating expenses from the level seen a year ago was an aberration caused by some fuel invoices being received too late to include in this quarter's report. The new MCI Coaches are due to arrive in service on December 15th with kick off events planned for the Roanoke and New River Valleys during the 15th, 16th, and 17th time frame.

Richard Caywood gave an update on the Park & Ride lot at Exit 140. Upgrades should be done by Christmas if all goes well. This effort will enable the new MCI Coaches to service that lot as well as organize the parking in a fashion that should effectively add more capacity.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other needing discussion therefore the session was closed.

IX. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is December 3, 2009 at 2:00 PM in the Montgomery County Government Center.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM

Attest:

Lance Terpenney, Chairman